

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3881
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
HEROIN
JITENDRA PRASADA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the increasing abuse of heroin by injection and sharing of needles has resulted in an alarming rise in HIV/AIDS cases in India and the South Asia countries;
- (b) if so, the details in the regard; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check this menace in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

- (a) HIV infection through injecting and sharing of needles is localized in North Eastern States of India only.
- (b) A total of 11251 AIDS cases have been reported to NACO upto 31st March, 2000, out of which 596 (5.3%) are due to injecting drug use.
- (c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of:-

Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections. Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure. Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care. Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels. Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sector.